

Iowa Commission on Native American Affairs Meeting
Teleconference/web meeting
Friday, April 25, 2014
9:00 a.m. – Noon

Call to Order – Chair Karen Mackey called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

Members Present: Karen Mackey, Kelly Montijo-Fink, Keith Carpenter, Vicky Apala-Cuevas, Joe Dan Coulter.

Members absent: Judy Yellowbank, Larry Lasley, Dirk Whitebreast, Franklin Phillips, Dawn Buffalo.

Guests: Jill Fulitano-Avery, Office of Native American Affairs; Heidi Smith, DHR Deputy Director/CAS Division Administrator; Danielle Plogmann, staff; Judy Morrison, DOC liaison; Alisa Horn, Native American Medicaid Liaison.

Approval of Minutes: Amendments to draft minutes: Capitalize LaMere, correct Great Plains meeting in August, separate Briar Cliff. Coulter moved to approve the October 11, 2013 minutes as amended. Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. (Zero nay, zero abstentions)

Chair Report: None

DHR Report: Avery mentioned an invitation from the Iowa DOT regarding a tribal conference to be held in Ames in May. She will re-send the information. Avery received a call from someone who thought there might have been Native American remains on their property. Avery worked with the State Archaeologist's office to help coordinate a non-invasive excavation. Avery continues reaching out to other state agencies to raise awareness about the Native Commission and the importance of the First People. Avery concluded by noting the Governor and Lt. Governor attended DHR's open house in February, which was a good opportunity to share information about the work. In response to a question about a new website, Avery said nothing had advanced. In response to a question about finding resources to pay for tribal representatives to attend meetings, Avery explained there is still not funding available. However, Avery did seek out contact information and share meeting information with tribes.

Capitol Display Committee Report: A draft letter was offered. Coulter noted that the letter might be more impactful once session concludes. Avery noted that her research uncovered that Iowa is the only state without Native American representation in its state Capitol. Carpenter moved for a commission representative (Coulter) to work with Avery to finalize and distribute the letter. Montijo-Fink seconded. Unanimous approval by voice vote (zero nay, zero abstentions).

ICWA and Juvenile Justice: Nothing.

Tribal Community Collaborations: Coulter expressed a desire for resources to more actively involve Native communities in the commission's affairs. Montijo-Fink offered to ride-share if there are tribal representatives living nearby who would like a ride to a commission meeting.

New Business:

Alisa Horn, Indian Health Services Liaison: Ms. Horn explained that she works with the Region 7 tribes, including tribes within Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas. Whenever there is to be a state plan amendment, she sends a draft notification to her tribal contacts. They have 60 days to follow up with input. (The state plan is a contract with the federal government to implement rules.) If a tribe has a concern, she will discuss it by phone or in person. Once that is done, the draft is sent to the federal government for approval. Ms. Horn can be reached by calling 515-256-4647 or emailing ahorn@dhs.state.ia.us. In response to a question, Horn said she can be a go-between for Native Americans and DHS regarding ACA enrollments.

Letter Regarding Ponca Housing Authority: Motion by Apala-Cuevas. Motion died for lack of a second. *(Note: Upon further review of previous meeting minutes, this letter was approved at the October 2013 meeting.)*

Native American Ceremonies in the State of Iowa Prison System: Coulter said he received two letters from individuals with strong complaints with how they're not being allowed to practice Native American traditional ceremonies. He said he was unaware what the commission might be able to do, but wanted to bring it to the Commission's attention. Apala-Cuevas asked if the letters elaborated on why they weren't able to practice. Coulter explained that items were confiscated and basically the individuals were forbidden to practice. Judy Morrison, Department of Corrections Native American Spiritual and Cultural Consultant, asked for more information. She was not aware of any offender denied their legitimate ceremonies. Coulter did not want to reveal more specific information or the individuals' identities. Morrison offered to meet privately to discuss. Coulter said he didn't wish to jeopardize their status. Coulter said he may have received the letters because of his role on the Commission, so he wanted to bring them to the commission's attention.

Old Business:

Native American Prisoners Spiritual Rights: Morrison reported the draft document on rights and responsibilities of Native American offenders is finalized and she would be going over it with the Department of Corrections Director in the next two weeks. Then it will be distributed. Montijo-Fink asked Morrison to provide commissioners with copies. Morrison said every offender would also get a copy.

Schedule Next Meeting: Friday, June 13 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women at Mitchellville. Judy Morrison will work with the warden to set up the meeting.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Plogmann, staff